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THE DEATH SONG of the CHEROKEE INDIANS;

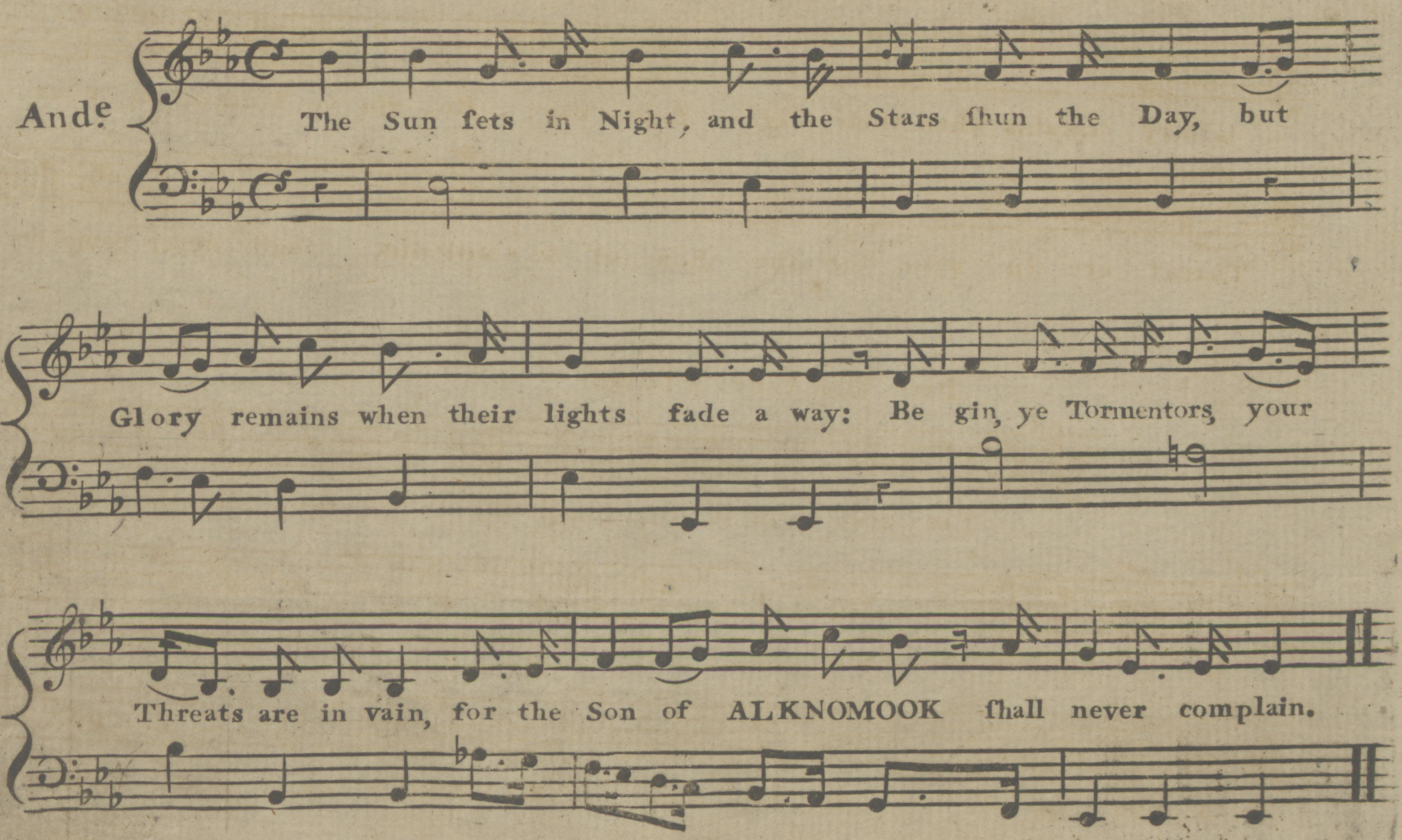
AN ORIGINAL AIR, brought from AMERICA,

By a Gentleman, long Conversant with the Indian Tribes, particularly with the Cherokees

The Words ADAPTED TO THE AIR by a Lady.

Price 6d.

Printed & Sold by William Boag, at his Music Shop,
No. 11, Great Turnstile, Lincoln's Inn Fields.



2

Remember the Arrows he ſhot from his Bow,
Remember your Chiefs by his Hatchet laid low;
Why ſo ſlow? do you wait till I ſhrink from the Pain.
No the Son of ALKNOMOOK will never complain.

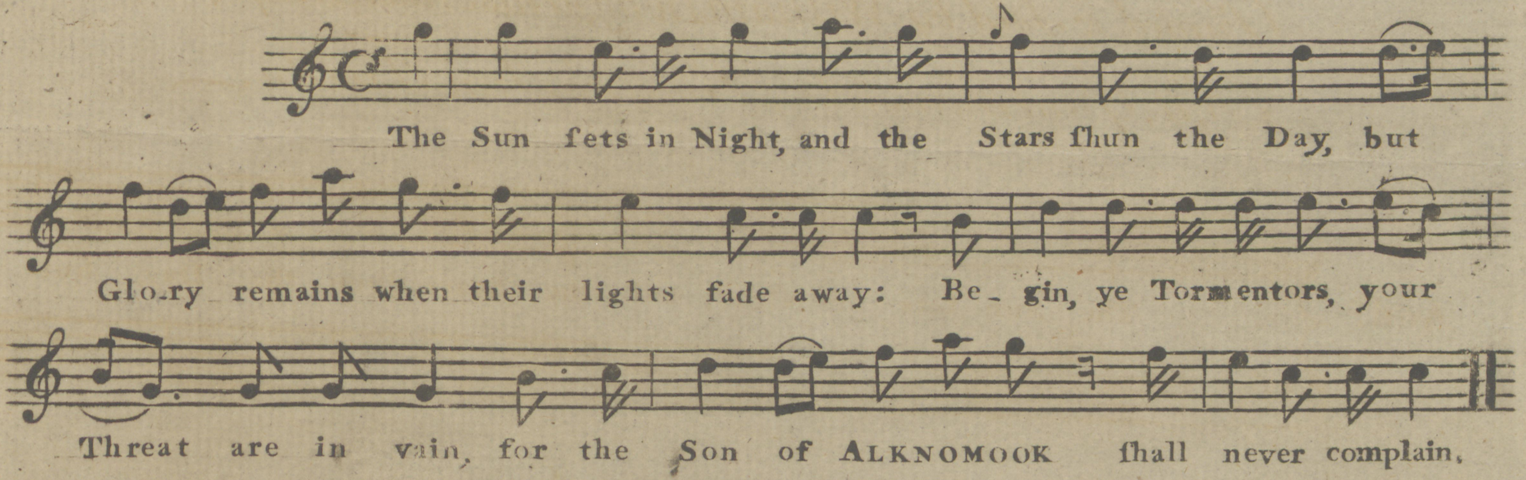
3

Remember the Wood where in Ambush we lay,
And the Scalps which we bore from your Nation away;
Now the Flame rises fast—You exult in my Pain,
But the Son of ALKNOMOOK can never complain.

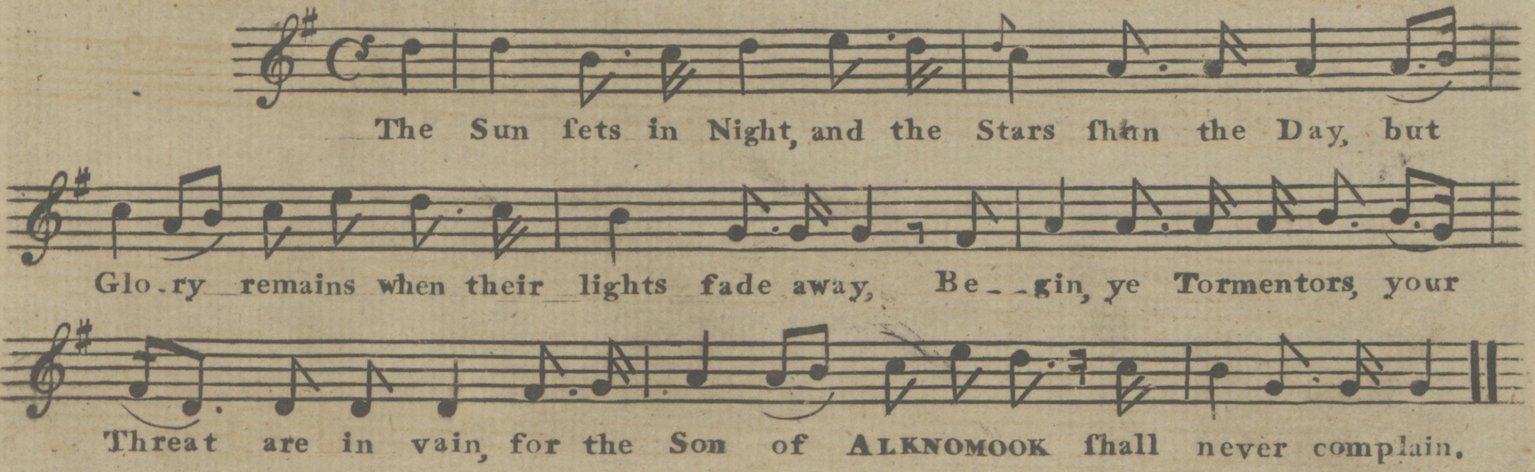
4

I go to the Land where my Father is gone,
His Ghost ſhall rejoice in the Fame of his Son:
Death comes like a Friend, he relieves me from Pain,
And thy Son, O! ALKNOMOOK, has ſcorn'd to complain.

For the Guitar.



For the Ger. Flute.



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A Cherokee Death Song

[Hunter, Anne Home]: THE DEATH SONG OF THE CHEROKEE INDIANS.... London: William Boag, [ca. 1797]. [2]pp. Folio. Dbd. Engraved sheet music. One-inch tear in from foredge. Old fold line through center. Clean. Very good.

An extremely rare printing of this poignant Indian death song, which first appeared as early as 1783 and is commonly referred to by the title, "Alknomook," after the hero of the poem, "Son of Alknomook." Sometimes attributed to Philip Freneau or Royall Tyler (in whose work, "The Contrast," it appears), authorship is now confidently assigned to Anne Hunter, daughter of the famous surgeon, Robert Home, and wife of the equally well known anatomist and surgeon, John Hunter. "The song is extraordinarily interesting, both in its own right and in what scholarship has done with it. There is general agreement that the poem is probably the best example of the genre of Indian death songs, depicting the Indian's heroic endurance of adversity and his unyielding spirit in the case of physical defeat...there is no doubt that it did become extremely popular at the end of the 18th century and was still sung through the early 19th century...'This song had long the popularity of a [American] national air and was familiar in every drawing room in the early part of the century'" - Tanselle. ^The work proved so popular that it went through at least twenty-six editions prior to 1825. The present edition is dated ca.1797 owing to the 1797 watermark date of the paper. Extensive study of these appearances has determined with relative certainty that work was likely a popular creation based loosely in the Indian tradition of the "death song." It has been compared to "Yankee Doodle," in terms of its original popularity. A key musical epic with a distinctly American theme. ^The NUC locates only one other copy of this issue, at the Newberry Library. Not on OCLC.
G. Thomas Tanselle, "The Birth and Death of Alknomook" in NEWBERRY LIBRARY BULLETIN Vol. VI, No. 10, May 1979.

$1250.

MUS, ENG, WOM, ING

Request for Conservation Treatment

Manuscript Collection / (Publication) (circle one) Title:

Alknomook (Cherokee Indian Death Song)

Collection (App Coll,) Rare Books, UA, SCR) /Call number:

Location: M 1621. A45 1797

Folder(s)/Item(s) Description:

2 pg. printed sheet music (1797) + description of song

Priority: ☐ Immediate ☐ High ☒ Medium ☐ Low

Problem:

☐ Brittle Paper ☒ Binding Issues ☐ Fire Damage ☐ Insect Damage ☒ Major Tears

☐ Mold Damage ☐ Pages Detached ☐ Red Rot ☐ Rubber Bands ☐ Staining Adhesives

☐ Staples/Clips ☐ Surface Dirt ☐ Vinegar Syndrome ☐ Tape ☐ Water Damage

Further Description of Above: Housing issue:

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